

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07316 230905Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 /076 W
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R 211753Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3355

INFO SECDEF

JCS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USCINCNAVEUR

USCINCUSAFE

16TH AF TORREJON CO

JUSMG MAAG SPAIN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADD E.O. TAGS AND SUBJ LINES PREVIOUSLY
OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS - SPANISH PRESS TREATMENT
OF OCT 15-17 TALKS

SUMMARY: IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER PERFORMANCE, APPARENTLY NO
ELEMENT OF THE GOS HAS YET GIVEN THE SPANISH PRESS ANYTHING OF
SUBSTANCE TO CHEW ON WITH RESPECT TO THE OCT 15-17 MCCLOSKEY
VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. SPANISH GOVT HAS APPARENTLY ISSUED ONLY ONE OFFICIAL STATEMENT
REGARDING THESE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT FROM THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY OCT 16 WHICH SAID SIMPLY THAT THE TALKS WERE
CONTINUING. EUROPA PRESS SERVICE PRODUCED A STORY ON OCT 18 TO
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EFFECT THAT THE TALKS WERE IN A VERY ADVANCED STATE BUT THAT AN

ADDITIONAL TWO TO THREE MONTHS WOULD PROBABLY BE REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S WIRE SERVICE (PYRESA) REPORTS THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN A NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUPS MIGHT TAKE PLACE OR WHETHER IT WILL BE IN MADRID OR WASHINGTON.

2. US SOURCES ARE RELIED ON FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF THE PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENT, NOTABLY A BENJAMIN WELLS STORY PURPORTEDLY CARRIED IN OCT 18'S CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. A PYRESA STORY OF OCT 16 CONTAINED A DIRECT QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO A MEMBER OF THE US WORKING GROUPS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, NOT JUST ONE, AND WOULD BE READY FOR SIGNATURE IN APPROXIMATELY ONE AND A HALF MONTHS. ATTRIBUTED TO "THE SAME SOURCES" (SIC) WAS THE INFORMATION THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT, WOULD BE FOR 5 YEARS, AND WOULD INVOLVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN \$500 MILLION AND \$1 BILLION.

3. EXCEPT FOR ONE COLUMNIST'S SUGGESTION OF AN IMPLICIT TIE BETWEEN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND SPANISH PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCO OVER THE SPANISH SAHARA, THERE HAS BEEN NO VERY RECENT COMMENT ON THE STATE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE OPPOSITION-ORIENTED PRESS (PRIMARILY MAGAZINES) IS NOT CONTINUING TO PUBLISH GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE COMMENT ON OUR BASE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SPAIN.
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